

Bridle Trail

Loyalsock State Forest



Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants.

The Loyalsock State Forest comprises 115,000 acres in Sullivan, Lycoming and Bradford counties.



The Bridle Trail

The bridle trail consists of two 25-mile loops, referred to as the East Loop and the West Loop, each beginning and ending at the trailhead along World's End Road (SR 3009). Horseback riders will find that both of the 25-mile loops offer many hours of excellent riding through a wide variety of landscapes and forest types and conditions. The trailhead contains a small shelter, latrines, parking areas and poles for your hitch line. During the winter months, the trailhead is utilized by both snow-mobilers and cross-country skiers. The year-round use of this area means everyone must exercise good judgment, common courtesy and concern for the trail's environment.

The West Loop

If you travel the West Loop in a clockwise direction, you'll pass through an area about two miles from the trailhead that was devastated by a tornado on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1974. Over the next six or seven miles the trail follows a gently rolling route. Here, as is the case throughout the trail, riders will pass through or near several timber management areas. You will notice the tree mortality and sparse tree canopy in the higher elevations caused by native insect and fungus outbreaks of the mid-1990's. Fences to protect the establishing seedlings from white-tailed deer surround many of the

timber treatments.

The loop will begin its first major descent of approximately 1,000 feet, leading into the Dry Run Valley and past the Forest Headquarters near Hillsgrove. **Take extra caution along this descent, keeping an eye out for loose trail surfaces.** The trail crosses Dry Run and in a distance of a few miles, rises to Jackson Flats, gaining back most of its elevation. You will then circle around beneath High Knob Overlook. Riders should not attempt to reach the Knob from this point. Continue around the hill for a mile or so, until the trail climbs to the back section of the High Knob Road. Here you can ride along the road to the High Knob Overlook and enjoy the view.

For the next few miles you will encounter extensive forest damage, initiated by insect outbreaks and followed by windstorms generated by Hurricane Floyd on September 17, 1999. You will notice the remnants of the uprooted trees that were salvaged for lumber.

After leaving the High Knob Road the trail heads slightly downhill and into the heart of the hurricane damage. It maintains a fairly level course across the upper reaches of the Cape Run and Ketchum Run drainages in the upland known as Nettle Ridge. The trail then follows the Mile Trail before joining the Coal Mine Road. In the winter, this road is the nucleus of our cross-country ski trail system.

The East Loop

The East Loop uses a mixture of logging roads and State Forest Roads. For the most part, it follows a gently rolling course until it enters the Shanerburg Run valley at the far eastern end of the loop. The stream is a native wild trout stream and is recognized as an "Exceptional Value Waterway". The stream and its surrounding forestland provide one of the most scenic areas along the trail and deserve special care and consideration. In its upper reaches, Shanerburg Run meanders through a number of grassy meadows. Horses can easily damage the stream banks in this section and should never be ridden or lead to the stream to drink. Camping with horses is not permitted here. The trail goes in and out of the Shanerburg Valley twice within a few miles, changing elevation about 700 feet. The Loyalsock Canyon Vista, along the Cold Run Road, offers an excellent view of the Loyalsock Valley and the "S" shaped curve that marks the location of Worlds End State Park.



Rules of the Trail

Ride only on the designated horse trail. The standard trail marker is the international horse-back trail symbol, a brown triangle with the white picture of a horse and rider. These markers are supplemented with 2 x 4 inch rectangular red blazes. You will also see a combination of red and blue blazes where the horse trail shares its use with the cross country ski trail.



Exercise caution where the trail follows State Forest Roads. Ride in single file on the edge of the road, with traffic, and always be aware of approaching motor vehicles, especially on "blind curves".

Horses are not permitted on the Loyalsock Trail, except where designated. The trail is shown on map for your convenience. The LT is marked with:



Be cautious of other users, such as mountain bikes or cross country skiers. Be courteous at all times.

Camping Guidelines

While camping with horses you must take extra caution to not damage the environment. Motorized camping with horses is limited to the Bridle Trailhead. Primitive camping with horses along the trail is discouraged.

Do not tie horses directly to trees. Chewing or rubbing bark can injure or kill trees. Utilize the high lead poles at the campground or stake your horses so that they cannot reach the trees.

Horses may be led to water where rocky stream banks are present. Earthen stream banks are strictly forbidden to use by horses.

Keep campfires small and burn only dead and down wood. Never leave fires unattended. Completely extinguish campfires until cold before vacating site. Use plenty of water and double check for hot embers.

Clean up your campsite! Disperse manure into the forest at least 100 feet from the campsite, trail and water sources. Pack out everything that you brought in.

Read the guidelines attached to your Camping Permit and the State Forest Rules and Regulations thoroughly.

Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don't damage trees and other plants.

Certified "Well Managed"

Pennsylvania state forests are certified to FSC® standards. The Forest Stewardship Council® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.



The mark of responsible forestry

iConservePA

To learn more about the state's natural resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto iConservePA.org.



For more information

Loyalsock State Forest
Resource Management Center
Forest District #20

6735 Route 220
Dushore, PA 18614
(570) 946-4049



LEGEND

- - - BRIDLE TRAIL
- - - LOYALSOCK TRAIL
- - - OTHER TRAILS
- TRAIL LOCATOR POSTS
- MILE MARKERS
- LATRINE
- PARKING
- STREAMS
- CONTOUR LINES (100 FT INTERVAL)
- HIGHWAY
- STATE ROUTE
- TOWNSHIP ROAD
- STATE FOREST ROAD
- = = = WOODS ROAD
- NATURAL AREA
- WILD AREA
- LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST
- WORLDS END STATE PARK

